



## PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

This policy applies to all School departments, including EYFS

**Approved by: LAS Board**

**Date Approved: November 2024**

**Point of Contact (Reviewer): Head of Preparatory School**

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### The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

### Mission Statement

*Legis Plenitudo Caritas  
Love is the fulfilment of the law*

### Vision

We are a Catholic School, universal and welcoming of all, founded in Christ to nurture every pupil to achieve their greatest potential so that they may shine a light and make the world a better place.

### Aims

- To educate the whole person, rooted in Rosmini's belief that 'a pupil must be allowed to grow and develop as an integrated human person'
- To sustain our Minerva learning culture and set high expectations for all in pursuit of academic excellence
- To build character and confidence through personal development and co-curricular opportunity
- To foster a culture of love for one another in pursuit of faith in action, embracing our school virtues

### Virtues

We focus on core virtues linked to our strategic aims:

- **Love** and respect for the dignity of the human person
- **Courage** to grow in confidence and be resourceful
- **Wisdom** to discern knowledge and truth

### Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 Instrument of Government, clause 2). As an independent Catholic school, we work to uphold the guidance of the diocese with prayer and worship being used appropriately in line with the liturgical year.

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). As an independent Catholic school, in which parents choose to educate their child in a Catholic ethos, we expect pupils to engage in prayer and worship.

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

### **Responsibility**

#### **a) Governance**

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

#### **b) Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

#### **c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

### **Overview of prayer and liturgy provision**

The school day begins with prayer for all year groups. The Prep school also say a grace before meals, after they have eaten and a prayer before they go home. Every pupil experiences one form of Collective Worship at least once per week. This is likely but not limited to the Celebration of the Word which might be led by the Headmaster or pupils whether in class or for the whole school. In addition, for Prep, this may also include the Head of Prep or the Chaplaincy Team.

For the school, Mass is said three times over the year (once per term) and an additional three outside of school hours where members of the local community and families are invited to attend. In addition, the Prep school also attend Parish Mass at Saint Mary's at least twice per year.

When Holy Days of Obligation fall within term time, they are referenced in school e.g. Ash Wednesday and those wishing to attend a Mass can attend a Mass with the Head of Prep, with parental permission, at Saint Mary's.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Lent to all those who wish to avail of the opportunity.

Resourcing Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy.

The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season.

### **Training and formation**

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. This includes directing them towards training provided by the Diocese of Nottingham including compulsory attendance at this training for ECTs. Any further individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

We believe that leading pupils in prayer is a vital and essential part of Catholic education. It is expected that teachers will:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to pray
- Provide pupils with meaningful prayer experiences
- Assist pupils to develop the language of prayer and worship
- Teach pupils the traditional prayers of the Church
- Help pupils to develop habits of prayer

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors, to ensure that areas for development are identified and issues raised can be actioned and evidenced as appropriate in a timely and strategic manner.